**Different Perspectives**

**Ask a Dad: Zoe: “What time is it?” Dad: “830.” Ask a Mom: Zoe: “What time is it?” Mom: “Time to brush your teeth, time to wash your face, time to put your pajamas on, and time to help me straighten up this living room before somebody trips and breaks their neck!” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**If you asked the average person to stand in a very confined space with a small, spherical missile flying around at 100 mph, most would reply, “Are you crazy?” But it you call it racquetball or squash, they’ll say, “Fine. Let’s play.” *(Charles Koltz, in Washington University Alumni News)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Our house was badly threatened by a flood. We were without electricity, and water was seeping through the floor boards. I helped my wife, daughter and two guests into the loft, and then started to climb down to find a consoling bottle of whiskey. “Don’t drink that,” shouted my wife. “I’m saving it for an emergency.” *(H. S. Hill, in Reader’s Digest)***

**My mother-in-law was in charge of the church nursery one Sunday. When my two-year-old son became a little overbearing, she turned to her helper and said, “I would call him a bully, but seeing as how he is my grandson, I’d say he has ‘leadership potential.’” *(Jeanette L. Nichols, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Stand beside the bed and look at the curtains. Lie down on the bed and look at the curtains. The color you see when you stand won’t look the same as the color you see when you lie down. Or so contend the experts. Such are your eyes they say, that the position of your head influences your color perception. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Try to look at things from your computer’s point of view. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Citizens in a small town were understandably confused when two nearby church notice boards simultaneously proclaimed: “Strong drink is your worst enemy” and “Make your worst enemy your best friend.” *(C. Kennedy, in Catholic Digest)***

**The teenager lost a contact lens while playing basketball in his driveway. After a fruitless search, he told his mother the lens was nowhere to be found. Undaunted, she went outside and in a few minutes returned with the lens in her hand. “I really looked hard for that, Mom,” said the youth. “How’d you manage to find it?” “We weren’t looking for the same thing,” she replied. “You were looking for a small piece of plastic. I was looking for $150.” *(Ohio Motorist – AAA)***

**When a rural Kansas preacher returned after visiting New England, a parishioner met him at the train station. “How are things out our way, Hiram?” the preacher asked. “Sad, sir. A cyclone came and wiped out my house.” “Dear, dear,” cried the parson. “Well, I’m not surprised, Hiram. You remember I warned you about the way you had been living. Punishment for sin is inevitable.” “It also destroyed your house, sir,” said Hiram. “It did?” The pastor was horrified. “Ah me, the ways of the Lord are past human understanding.” *(Oren Arnold, in Snappy Steeple Stories)***

**Dennis the Menace: “Woohoo! I love the last day of school!” Mr. Wilson who is often bothered by Dennis: “I’m more partial to the first day!” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)***

**The size and closeness of European countries sometimes result in Europeans’ having a distorted perspective of the United States. I once received a letter from an Italian woman who was about to tour America. She enthusiastically related her plans to see Washington, D.C., the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty and other places of interest. At the end of the letter she asked my advice: “Would the Grand Canyon be more beautiful to visit in the morning, or should I wait and see the Statue of Liberty first, leaving the Grand Canyon for the afternoon.” *(Cathy Trotter, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When an eagle chick emerges from its shell, we see the marvelous miracle of new life. We are amazed at how this fluffy bird, now free to range about, ever fit into such a tiny home. The chick, however, has a different perspective! At this stage, it’s not too impressed that it finally has room to stretch its wings. It just wants to eat and take a nap! Pushing and pecking through the egg’s walls is hard work! *(The Unity World Report, 1996)***

**In his autobiography, The President Is Calling, Milton Eisenhower, former president of Pennsylvania State University, recounts the story of when his brother, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, gave the college’s commencement address in 1955: Shortly before eight o’clock on the morning of the commencement, while the President and I were in the breakfast room chatting, the university meteorologist joined us, saying that the chances of rain were 50-50. With an expected audience of about 25,000, the thought of going indoors was appalling. Naturally I waited for the President to suggest what we should do. He grinned and said, “You decide. I haven’t worried about the weather since D-Day.” *(Reader’s Digest)***

**A single event can have an infinite number of interpretations. *(Land Title Guarantee Company calendar)***

**Hold up a finger: look at it with one eye, then the other. Notice how it seems to shift position in relation to objects farther away. That tricky little piece of business is called “parallax.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**What does “frail” mean to you? Fragile? Delicate? Well, its No. 1 meaning is “readily led into evil.” In some street jargon, a frail is a woman. And something not even all grape growers know. A frail is 50 pounds of raisins. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One way to get high blood pressure is to go mountain-climbing over molehills. *(Quoted by Earl Wilson, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)***

**My husband and our son, both golfers, were telling our grandson Mike, an avid bowler, the great joys of golf. Mike, however, was not impressed. “You hit the ball and then have to chase it all over the field,” Mike said. “I prefer bowling. You just stand there and the ball comes back to you.” *(Alberta R. Fuller, in Reader's Digest)***

**All of Holland’s windmills turn counterclockwise, I reported. But a savvy reader notes that from the point of view of the miller who works inside, the windmill turns clockwise. And so it is that one’s point of view is everything. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When dogs leap onto your bed, it’s because they adore being with you. When cats leap onto your bed, it’s because they adore your bed. *(Alisha Everett)***

**While exploring the back roads of County Leitrim, in Ireland, my husband and I lost our way. We spotted a farmer leading his cow to pasture and stopped him. “Excuse me,” I said. “Could you direct us to Mohill? We’re lost.” A lovely smile creased the man’s leathery face. “You’re not lost at all, do y’see, for you’ve found me,” he answered, “and I know the way.” *(Mary McGovern, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Man: “I’m feeling down in the dumps.” Lars: “Maybe you just need a new perspective on things.” Man: “Okay, I’m feeling up in the dumps.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Under Secretary of Interior John C. Whitaker is reminded of how easy it is to get an out-of-perspective feeling about one’s important in government whenever he thinks of an 85-year-old woman who has lived her life in one spot in Nova Scotia. The population there swells to nine in summer and stays steady at two during the winter. Whitaker, who has been fishing there every year since he was 12, flew in one day. Miss Mildred welcomed him into her kitchen and said, “Johnny, I hate to admit I don’t know, but where is Washington?” When Whitaker realized that she wasn’t kidding, he explained: “That’s where President Ford is. That’s like where you have Mr. Trudeau in Ottawa.” Then she asked how many people lived there, and Whitaker said about two million. “Think of that,” she said, “two million people living so far away from everything.” *(Fairbanks, Alaska, News-Miner)***

**A worthless pebble will hide the universe if you hold it close enough to your eyes. *(Valley Labor Citizen)***

**“Alaska sable” is skunk fur. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Children like to listen to scary stories before bedtime. Adults watch the late news. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**There are three children in my family. If they were to confront a spiderweb in the garden, each would react differently. The first child would examine the web and wonder how the spider wove it. The second would worry a great deal about where the spider was at that particular moment. And the third would exclaim, “Oh, look! A trampoline.” One reality, three dimensions. *(Phyllis Theroux, in New York Times)***

**From Pluto, the sun looks merely like a small bright star. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A small trouble is like a pebble. Hold it too close to your eye, and it puts everything out of focus. Hold it at proper viewing distance, and it can be examined and classified. Throw it at your feet, and it can be seen in its true setting, just one more tiny bump on the pathway to eternity. *(Celia Luce)***

**The Scots had their legendary vampires, too. But these were different. They were beautiful maidens in green gowns long enough to hide their hooves. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Your choice of the “saddest words” and “happiest words” much depend on your occupation, says our Language man. In real estate, for instance, the three saddest words are: “Needs new roof.” The happiest word in that line is known to be: “Approved.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**All is perspective. To a worm, digging in the hard ground is more relaxing than going fishing. *(Clyde Abel)***

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